

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder comprising a body with a central aperture for receiving a deformable mirror, the central aperture being defined by a plurality of flexible beams, with each flexible beam having an end shaped to provide a supporting surface for passively supporting a deformable mirror, and a flexible portion that ~~connects~~ links the end of the beam's end to the body of the holder's body.
2. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~ as in claim 1, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide a supporting surface.
3. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~ as in claim 1 ~~or claim~~ 2, wherein the ends of the beams' ends lie in the plane of the body of the holder's body such that, in use, the mirror is received within the body of the holder's body.
4. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to any of~~ as in claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam's end.
5. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~ as in claim 4, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

6. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in ~~any preceding claim~~1, wherein the plurality of flexible beams are arranged around the entire aperture.
7. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in claim 6, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.
8. (Currently Amended) A deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in claim 7, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.
9. (Currently Amended) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in ~~any preceding claim~~1.
10. (Currently Amended) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in claim 4, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.
11. (Currently Amended) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder ~~according to~~as in claim 5, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.

Claims 12-13 (Cancelled)